

Simple + progressive aspect

Grammar

A Discuss the difference in meaning between these sentences:

- When we got to the station the train had just left.
When we got to the station the train was just leaving.
- He stood up when she entered the room.
He was standing up when she entered the room.
- He usually prepares the meal when his wife gets home.
He is usually preparing the meal when his wife gets home.
He has usually prepared the meal when his wife gets home.
- I've been reading your book. I've read your book.
- I'm not having dinner until 8 o'clock. I don't have dinner until 8 o'clock.
- They always ask questions in class. They're always asking questions in class.
- We'll be having breakfast at 7.30. We'll have breakfast at 7.30.
- Will you join us for lunch? Will you be joining us for lunch?
- I think you're being silly. I think you're silly.

B Present simple or present progressive: does or is doing

- Please don't phone me while I'm having dinner.
I usually ~~have~~ ~~the newspaper~~ while ~~I'm having~~ breakfast.
He often listens to the radio while he's doing the washing-up. (Your own example)
- Most days she has lunch at her desk but today she's eating out.
I usually ~~eat~~ ~~pancakes~~ with honey, but today ~~eat~~ ~~them~~ with sugar, for a change.
- When the sketch begins, a man arrives at a restaurant and starts eating.
In the end, the man ~~is~~ ~~so~~ ~~much~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~is~~ ~~leaving~~.
- When are you having dinner this evening?
What time ~~are~~ ~~you~~ ~~having~~ ~~dinner~~ ~~this~~ ~~evening~~? ~~tomorrow~~?

Past simple or past progressive: did or was doing

- I didn't want to phone her while she was having dinner.
She started to cough while she ~~was~~ ~~having~~ ~~dinner~~ and nearly ~~died~~.
- I was wondering if you could tell me why you don't like her.
The meal isn't ready because I ~~was~~ ~~waiting~~ ~~for~~ you to arrive so early.
- He didn't start preparing dinner until his wife got home.
They ~~got~~ ~~the~~ ~~results~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~exam~~ ~~until~~ ~~the~~ ~~end~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~year~~.
- Traffic was diverted because a new bridge was being built.
While the restaurant ~~was~~ ~~being~~ ~~redecorated~~, it ~~was~~ ~~closed~~ to the public.



Present perfect simple or progressive: has done or has been doing

- I have been reading this book for a week but I've only read 23 pages so far.
How long has she ~~been~~ ~~reading~~ ~~this~~ ~~book~~ ~~for~~ ~~a~~ ~~week~~ ~~but~~ ~~I've~~ ~~only~~ ~~read~~ ~~23~~ ~~pages~~ ~~so~~ ~~far~~?
- My friend ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~living~~ / they have lived in London for two years.
Mimmi These carrots are delicious — have ~~they~~ ~~been~~ ~~taken~~ ~~to~~ ~~hospital~~ ~~steamed~~ ~~or~~ ~~boiled~~?
- The restaurant is closed because the cook has been taking a holiday.
English and how many words has she ~~done~~ ~~or~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~doing~~?

Future: will do or will be doing

- What will you be doing tomorrow evening? Will you be waiting for your guests to arrive?
What will you do if they're late? and when I've done that I ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~doing~~, I expect.
This time tomorrow I ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~having~~ ~~dinner~~ and when I've done that I ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~having~~ ~~dinner~~?
- Will you be coming with us or are you busy tonight?
Could you phone us later on to let us know what time you ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~coming~~?
- Will you come with us? We'd love you to be there.
~~Will~~ ~~you~~ ~~come~~ ~~with~~ ~~us~~? ~~We'd~~ ~~love~~ ~~you~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~there~~.
~~Will~~ ~~you~~ ~~help~~ ~~me~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~washing-up~~, please?

C Find the errors in these sentences and correct them. One sentence has NO errors.

- We are usually having lunch out on Sundays.
- We can take a picnic but what will we be doing if it starts to rain?
- She stayed at home because she was having a cold.
- While I drove along I suddenly remembered that I had left the freezer door open.
- The last time I saw him he was getting on a bus, eating an ice cream.
- Breakfast is normally being served in the dining room but today it is served in the coffee shop.
- Who is this recipe book that's lying on the table belonging to?
- She was disliking vegetarian food at first but now she's enjoying it whenever she has been having it.

